

[facs] Fwd: a different look

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Dear ARFL FACS Colleagues:

First, I am not forwarding the link below for political reasons. But . . . take a minute to watch this video clip (link below) if you have time (Christmas 2006 in the Romney household). I just finished teaching the unit in ARFL on "Family." I then, saw this video clip. I thought this video shows a great example of how an extended family works together to make decisions that impact the entire family unit. It's an interesting look of how once a family is launched, they can come back together into a meaningful whole to make decisions that impact the extended unit, but they recognize each new married unit as their separate entity. I am not suggesting that you should show this in the classroom, because of the political issues at hand right now, but I think it teaches an important concept that we should think about adding to the family unit in the ARFL curriculum. We teach about types of families (nuclear, extended, blended, etc), we teach about the stages a family unit goes through in the Family Life Cycle (the preschool family, the teenage family, the launching family, etc). Perhaps, instead of just explaining what each type of family is, i.e. an extended family is . . . or, the stage a family is in . . . i.e. "the empty nest family," we think about illustrating the strengths (and or challenges) each stage can have on the family unit. How much more meaningful it would be to see various families functioning appropriately in each stage of the family life cycle. There's lots of media out there we could pull clips from. I know it takes time to teach the later, and the curriculum is already too full. But, having just finished the unit on families, I keep thinking how I informed my students about types of families and stages they go through, but in teaching those concepts, I have not really taught them concepts that help them to improve their future family life. Since the ARFL curriculum is in the revision stage, maybe we really need to look at the "meaning of the application issue" more. in the learning experiences we use. It's too easy to pass tangible concepts down from one revision of the curriculum to the next, and much tougher to think about does knowing this concept make a difference in what I (the student) will do in family life. Just a thought. Enjoy the clip below.

Ann Romney, Christmas 2006

Video:

Ann Romney, wife of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, invites viewers in for an unusual look at the Romney household...and one of the most momentous decisions a family could make.

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid980289835/bctid1044486836>

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Thank you for asking us all to think. I use that lesson to ask the kids to look both directions; into the future and into the past, with a critical eye. "Where is my family now, what stages are we in, how do I contribute to my family or am I just a gigantic "take machine"? What do I want my family in the future to look like? What traditions will I continue and what traditions should I get rid of or let die?" Most importantly, when looking at the choice to start a family, am I ready for that challenge? Am I ready and willing to open the back pack and ask what my child learned each day, read to them each night, have the hard conversations about sex and school and drugs and friends. Having children isn't about "I just want a baby sooo bad". It's about what you are prepared to give the next generation. I wasn't aware that this list serve could be sued for "political reasons" but am grateful for a good video clip not matter the source. I would like to recommend, Barac Obama's currently running commercial where he reminds parents the if we want a world class education for our children we need to get parents to turn off the TV and become an active contributor to the child's education each and every day. I also thought his brief mention that his father left his family early in his life and that education was his link to being a better person a better father was huge. Great example of living outside of your fathers legacy and taking control of your own life, your own legacy. Great endorsement that the opportunity to become educated is the one tool no one can ever take from you and the one tool that can afford you the means to reaching any dream no matter how lofty. Just something to think about.:)

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